

Synopsis

- Tab 1:** **Drug Testing in Schools – Office of National Drug Control Policy (24 pp.)** is an ONDCP publication promoting the use of drug testing in schools. The article presents an overview on drug testing and information on implementing a testing program at a school site. The publication cites benefits, as well as risks associated with having a school-based drug testing program. Resources for establishing a program are provided.
- Tab 2:** **The Effectiveness and Legality of Random Drug Testing Policies. Joseph McKinney, JD, Ed.D. (4 pp.)** is an Executive Summary of a study conducted by Ball State University on School Drug Testing in Indiana. The study summarizes the perceptions of 83 school principals concerning differences in school drug use before and after the imposition of drug testing. The study's author concludes that drug testing was, from the perspective of the principles, an effective strategy in reducing overall illicit drug use at their schools.
- Tab 3:** **The Impact of Drug Testing on Drug Use (3 pp.)** is an article summarizing the University of Michigan study on Student Drug Testing. The researchers, Yamaguchi, Johnston and O'Malley, sought to determine the extent to which schools use of drug testing as a component of drug prevention programs and to estimate the deterrent value of the drug testing. The study involving two national samples (i.e., Monitoring the Future Youth, Education and Society (Y.E.S.)) found no significant difference in the prevalence or the frequency of drug use between students at schools with drug testing policies and students at schools without testing. The brief summary includes a listing of other resources, including links to the Supreme Court's discussion on Student Drug Testing.
- Tab 4:** **Unlocking the Potential. Lisa Brady, Student Assistance Journal (September 2003) (5pp.)**. This article is about a successful random drug testing program at a high school in New Jersey. The article presents a case study on the breadth of services and policies that need to be in place prior to the introduction of a random drug testing program. The cornerstone of their approach is the presence of a Student Assistance (SA) program. It is written by the principal of the 2,600 student high school.
- Tab 5:** **To Test or Not to Test. Patricia Berry, Student Assistance Journal, (Spring 2004) (5 pp.)**. Another article from the Student Assistance Journal presents three mini-case studies on the successful implementation of random drug testing programs in high schools located in Hartford, Indiana; Chicago, Illinois; and Lynchburg, Virginia. No evaluation data is provided, although comments supportive of the positive effects of random testing are included. Part of the success of the program is the presence of a Student Assistance (SA) program.
- Tab 6:** **Relationship Between Student Illicit Drug Use and School Drug Testing Policies (6 pp.)**, by Yamaguchi, Johnston, and O'Malley (Journal of School Health, 2003) is derived from the referenced in Tab 3. The article presents the study methodology, findings, and caveats. Specifically, the study did not find a significant difference in the prevalence or frequency of drug use between the schools that used drug testing and those that did not. The researchers identify three potential limitations to this study.

- 1) The study presents correlational findings that may not be causal. That is, there is no way to tell if similar levels of illicit drug use at schools with and without drug testing are the results of ineffective prevention programs.
- 2) Data on drug testing were obtained from a single source – school administrators. As they indicate, it would have been helpful to have information on “student awareness of, or views about, drug testing.”
- 3) Illicit drug use was the focus, no information about student alcohol or tobacco use was reported.

Tab 7: **“Controversial Drug Testing Study Yields Mixed Results.” (1 p.)** is a one-page abstract presenting a brief summary of the Oregon Student Drug Testing Study (1999-2000). This was the largest funded study on the effectiveness of this intervention. Preliminary results indicated a drop in illicit drug use among drug tested athletes and an increase in alcohol use. However, due to problems with their human subject protection procedures, the study was terminated at the mid point. The article provides links to the study conducted by Frank J. Chaloupka and Adit Laixuthai.

Tab 8: **Making Sense of Student Drug Testing – Why Educators are Saying No. Drug Policy Alliance, January 2004 (28 pp.)** is a new booklet prepared by the Drug Policy Alliance concerning student drug testing. The authors identify eight reasons and supporting documentation for educators not to engage in random student drug testing. The reasons they offer are that student drug testing is:

- 1) Not effective as a deterrent
- 2) Expensive
- 3) Legally risky, exposing schools to potentially costly litigation
- 4) May deter students from participation in extra-curricular activities that have proven positive benefits
- 5) Undermines relationship of trust between students and teachers and parents
- 6) Can result in false positives
- 7) Does not effectively identify students with serious problems with drug use
- 8) May lead to unintended consequences – shifting drug use to drugs that are not identified in the random test

Tab 9: **“Factoids”** Tab 9 includes three different sets of factoids on drug use and drug testing:

Common Sense for Drug Policy (2 pp.) is an advertisement that appeared in the National Review, The New Republic, and other largely conservative periodicals. The advertisements identified five science-based reasons (sources provided) on the ineffectiveness of a student drug testing policy. Two citations were from National Research Council studies.

Drug War Facts. Drug Testing & Employment (2 pp.) highlights 16 facts with citations on problems associated with drug testing.

ACLU Fact Sheet #2: Social Science Research on Adolescent Drug Use and School Involvement (2 pp.) identifies nine research articles/monographs/reports on drug use and school involvement with a focus on drug testing. The general consensus is that drug testing is not a good idea, based on potential violation of civil liberties and the lack of science to support this intervention. Several citations focus on the importance of having adolescents involved in post school activities – often the target of drug testing procedures.

- Tab 10:** **Drug Testing Passes High Court Examination (3 pp.)** is a National Conference of State Legislatures briefing paper on Drug Testing. This article presents a list of 14 different web sites on legal issues including a synopsis of the U.S. Supreme Court rulings on this topic.
- Tab 11:** **Ann Orwig – Citizen/lawyer memorandum to a school superintendent on School Drug Testing Policy (6 pp.)** is a detailed analysis written by a parent of a student in a school system that was considering school drug testing. The memorandum is written by a lawyer who cites various legal issues including past rulings and their implications for implementing drug testing in this particular Princeton, New Jersey elementary school. She also presents an assessment of the proposed policy in light of the overall educational objectives and policies in place at the elementary school. It is an excellent legal review and strongly written critique of an elementary school drug testing policy.
- Tab 12:** **Drug Testing Online (5 pp.)** reproduces a web site devoted to individuals, specifically students that want to mask detection by various drug tests. It demonstrates widespread availability of inexpensive kits to help students (or adults) avoid detection.